

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A worm gear for a vehicle steering system, said worm gear comprising a shaft (5) swivably mounted ~~so as to be able to swivel~~ for swiveling in the radial direction (23), a worm (17) disposed in a rotationally ~~fixedly~~ fixed manner on said shaft (5), and a worm wheel (19) meshing with said worm (17), said worm (17) and said worm wheel (19) ~~being~~ preloaded in the radial direction, said worm wheel having teeth, each said tooth having right and left tooth flanks which are inclined at respective pressure angles, characterized in that the pressure angle α_r of ~~angle of~~ the right tooth flank (20) and the pressure angle ~~α_l~~ of the left tooth flank (22) ~~are~~ being different from each other ~~and are so selected that so that~~ the normal force ~~(F_N)~~ between said worm (17) and said worm wheel (19) is independent of the direction of rotation of a torque exerted on said worm (17) by said worm wheel (19).

Claim 2 (currently amended): The worm gear according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a housing, said shaft (5) is mounted in ~~a~~ said housing (11) by means of a fixed bearing (9) and at least one loose bearing (13), ~~and in that~~ said loose bearing or bearings (13) are displaceable in the radial direction (23) in said housing (11).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The worm gear according to claim ~~1~~ 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said housing (11) comprises a slot (49) ~~to receive~~ for receiving said loose bearing (13) ~~and in that~~ the longitudinal axis of said slot (49) extends extending in the radial direction (23).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The worm gear according to claim ~~1~~ 2, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a support ring, said loose bearing (13) ~~bears~~ bearing against said housing (11) via ~~a~~ said support ring (47).

Claim 5 (currently amended): The worm gear according to claim ~~1~~ 2, ~~characterized in that~~ at least one further comprising a spring element (25) is provided disposed between one of said loose bearing (13) and said housing (11) ~~or~~ and between said support ring (47) and said housing (11).

Claim 6 (currently amended): The worm gear according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said spring element ~~(25)~~ is one of a spiral spring ~~or~~ and a plate spring.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The worm gear according to claim ~~1~~ 2, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising an anti-twist device ~~is~~ disposed between one of said loose bearing (13) and said housing (11) ~~or~~ and between said support ring (47) and said housing (11).

Claim 8 (currently amended): The worm gear according to claim ~~1~~ 2, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a leaf spring, said loose bearing (13) is connected via ~~a~~ said leaf spring to said housing (11), ~~and in that~~ said leaf spring ~~extends~~ extending perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of said shaft (5) and perpendicularly to the direction (23) in which said loose bearing (13) is displaceable between said housing (11) and said loose bearing (13).

Claim 9 (currently amended): The worm gear according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said shaft (5) is the rotor shaft of an electric motor.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The worm gear according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said worm (17) is cantilevered on said shaft (5).

Claim 11 (currently amended): The worm gear according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said shaft (5) is mounted in said housing (11) by means of ~~plain~~ one of sleeve bearings (9) ~~and/or~~ and rolling bearings (13).

Claim 12 (currently amended): A gear assembly for a vehicle steering system comprising ~~a drive shaft (5), which is driven by the worm gear of claim 1, an electric motor having three phases (3), and an output shaft (21), particularly according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein at least two of said phases (~~u, v, w~~) of said electric motor (3) are short-circuited and said electric motor (3) is disconnected from a voltage supply when said electric motor (3) ~~is not meant to be turning~~ is selected not to turn.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The worm gear according to claim ~~1~~ 12, ~~characterized in that~~ the wherein said short-circuiting of at least two phases (~~u, v, w~~) of said electric motor (3) is effected by means of one of a relay ~~or~~ and by means of FET semiconductor elements.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~The use of a worm gear according to claim 1, characterized in that said worm gear (1) is used in a~~ A servo unit for use in one of an electric servo steering system, ~~in a rack-and-pinion steering gear, in a steering actuator, in a speed modulation gear and/or as the~~ and steering actuator of a steer-by-wire steering system, said servo unit comprising the worm gear of claim 1.